BRITISH COLUMBIA
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BCStats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue: 11-08* *February 25th, 2011*

- **Private and public sector investment expected to increase 3.5% in 2011**
- **Retail sales slip 2.2% in December; up 4.8% for 2010**
- **Farm cash receipts off 3.3% in 2010**

Private & Public Investment

- **Private and public sector investment in British Columbia is expected to increase 3.5% this year.** Spending by the public sector is forecast to drop 0.8%, a substantial downturn from the double-digit growth seen in recent years (public sector investment jumped 13.5% in 2010). On the other hand, private sector entities predict that investment will climb 4.8% this year, following a 14.2% increase in 2010.

Total investment in construction (*both residential and non-residential*) projects is anticipated to rise by 2.4%, largely due to a planned 3.6% increase in private sector spending. However, spending by the public sector, which had been boosted by pre-Olympic projects, is expected to shrink (-1.8%). (*Note: these estimates are based on survey data collected between October and January, so they do not include recently announced public sector infrastructure projects.*)

It is predicted that investment in new machinery and equipment will climb 7.2% in 2011, with a hefty increase in private sector (+8.4%) spending pairing up with more moderate growth in the public sector (+2.7%).

Nationally, public & private sector investment is expected to rise 3.3%, with Newfoundland & Labrador (+27.2%) well ahead of the other provinces in terms of investment growth. Among the other provinces, Saskatchewan (+7.2%) will see the second-strongest increase. Meanwhile, the other Atlantic provinces are the only regions where investment is expected to decline. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **After four straight monthly increases, retail sales in BC fell 2.2% in December.** Much of the decline was due to a sharp drop in sales by motor vehicle and parts dealers. Sales at general merchandise, clothing stores and sporting goods shops also dropped. However, gasoline stations and furniture stores both saw receipts climb during the month. Nationally, retail sales dipped 0.2% in December with the most significant declines reported in New Brunswick and BC. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Health

- **Between 2000 and 2002, the five-year relative cancer survival rate in Canada (excluding Quebec) was 61%, five full percentage points better than it was between 1992 and 1994 (56%).** Survival ratios decrease significantly with age, such that those between the ages of 15 and 44 had the highest chance of surviving a cancer diagnosis (79%) in the 2000 to 2002 period and those aged 75 to 99 years had the lowest (49%). Overall, women had slightly better survival rates than men. Five-year relative survival for lung cancer (both sexes) was quite low (15%), while the prognosis for breast cancer (female) and prostate cancer relative survival was much higher (87% and 95%, respectively). *Source: Statistics Canada*

Rail Transportation

- **British Columbia shipped 45 million tonnes of goods in container and trailer rail cars in 2009, down 16.5% from the previous year.** Most (83%) was destined for other provinces with the remainder going south to the US and Mexico. Within Canada, three-quarters (74%) of the goods loaded onto rail cars in BC were destined for other parts of the province. Ontario (11%), Quebec (7%) and Alberta (7%) were the most common out-of-province desti-

Report Trends in Employment

Did you know...

Most (94%) Canadians feel that using a payment card in person at a store is 'safe,' while fewer (63%) feel the same about online card use. *Source: Ipsos Canada*

nations. Despite the recent decline, rail transportation in BC remains notably higher than in 2001 (+7.6%) and since 2004, more goods shipped by rail in Canada originated in BC than any other province.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

2010 in Review

- **Retail sales in the province climbed 4.8% in 2010, the largest annual increase since 2007, when sales strengthened 7.1%.** Convenience stores (+68.9%) saw a double-digit jump for the year, while many others, such as automobile dealers (+9.1%), specialty food stores (+8.7%) and gasoline stations (+4.0%), also saw sales increase substantially. All types of retailers appear to have fared rather well in 2010; with the exception of furniture stores (-1.5%), sales were up across the board.

  Nationally, annual retail sales climbed 4.8% with activity increasing in all provinces. Alberta (+5.7%) posted the most notable gain.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Farm cash receipts in BC were down 3.3% in 2010, ending three years of increases.** Livestock sales declined (-2.2%) and revenue from crops was also off (-3.0%). At the same time, subsidies and other payments to farmers were far lower (-19.8%) than in 2009.

  Cattle farmers (-11.5%), recorded double-digit declines last year, while farmers of hens & chickens (-4.3%), hogs (-1.8%) and turkeys (+1.9%) also received less from sales. Producers of wheat, canola, potatoes, small fruit and floriculture accounted for much of the decrease in crop receipts. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Gambling

- **In the 2009/2010 fiscal year, the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC) generated nearly $2.6 billion in revenue from the province's casinos, lotteries and bingo halls.** From this revenue, just under $600 million was paid out to lottery and bingo winners, and a substantial portion went to commissions and other operating-related expenses. Of the remaining net income (just over $1 billion), most went to the provincial government, with more than half going into consolidated revenue ($649 million). Charitable & community organizations received $113 million.

  BC is home to approximately 4,000 lottery retailers, 17 casinos, 13 bingo halls and 15 community gaming centres.

  Data Source: British Columbia Lottery Corporation

Labour and Economic Slowdown

- **Employment in Canada peaked in October 2008, but declined by more than 400,000 during the following 12 months.** Between October 2008 and October 2010, the number of people classified as unemployed rose by approximately 31%. According to data from the January 2011 Labour Force Survey, employment levels appear to have taken 27 months to recover to October 2008 levels. By comparison, employment took far longer (52 months) to get back to its pre-recession level in the wake of the downturn of the early 1990s. In early 2008, unemployment rates in Canada and the United States were very similar. However, Canada appears to have fared somewhat better in the long run. By the end of 2010, the US unemployment rate was over nine percent, while the adjusted rate in Canada was approximately seven percent. *Data Source: S.C. Cat #75-001*

The Nation

- **Canadian corporations earned higher profits in the fourth quarter of 2010 (+7.9 to $65.5 billion) than in the previous quarter, with widespread increases across most industries.** Boasting a rise of 55.4%, manufacturers of petroleum & coal products accounted for a significant proportion of the overall profit gain in non-financial industries. Profits were also up in the financial sector, with banks registering a 5.6% increase in the fourth quarter.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

***Infoline** Issue: 11-08*
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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

TRENDS IN EMPLOYMENT

FACT SHEET

December 2010

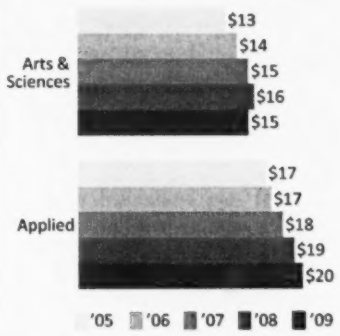
From the 1999 to 2009 surveys

Every year, respondents to the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey are asked a series of questions about their current employment. This paper looks at trends in employment characteristics between 1999 and 2009. As employment outcomes of former students can vary significantly by program type, the survey results for respondents from Applied programs, which were intended to lead to employment in a specific field, are shown separately from the results of former Arts and Sciences students, whose programs were intended to lead to further study. To reduce the influence of transitional employment to support education, ***respondents who reported studying at the time of the survey have been excluded from the analysis.*** *The analysis uses data from approximately 6,100 to 8,200 employed former students from Applied programs per year and 750 to 1,600 employed former Arts and Sciences students per year.*

Hourly Wage Rates

Hourly wage data were available beginning in 2005. Reported wages are based on respondents' main job, if they had more than one. Over the past four years, nominal (i.e., unadjusted for inflation) hourly wage rates have increased among survey respondents from both Arts and Sciences and Applied programs. The median wage among former students from Arts and Sciences programs increased by $2 per hour between 2005 and 2009. Students from Applied programs experienced an even larger increase, with the median wage increasing by $3 per hour between 2005 and 2009.

Hourly wage rates have increased since 2005



Note: Hourly wages shown are median amounts, rounded to the nearest dollar. Wages have not been adjusted for inflation.

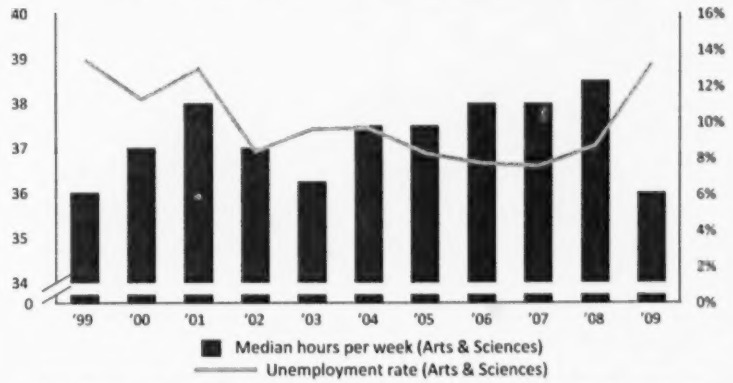
Hours of Work

Over the past 10 years, the median number of hours worked by respondents from Applied programs has remained constant, at 40 hours per week. Among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, however, the median has fluctuated between 36 and 39 hours per week. The hours worked by former Arts and Sciences students appear to follow the overall labour market conditions: years in which the hours per week are lower correspond with higher unemployment rates, and vice versa.

Multiple Job Holders

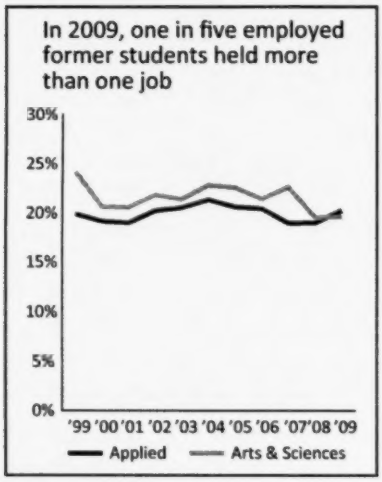
There has been little variation over time in the proportion of employed students from Applied programs holding multiple jobs (20% in both 1999 and

Among former students from Arts and Sciences programs, hours of work are negatively related to the unemployment rate



Note: The unemployment rate is calculated as the percentage of the labour force that is unemployed. Hours worked per week are based on respondents' main job.

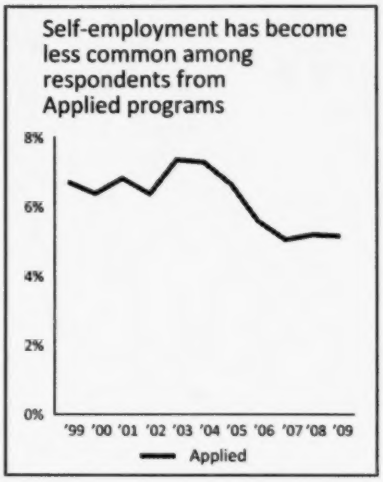
2009). Among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, the proportion of those holding more than one job has declined, with significantly fewer employed respondents (20%) holding more than one job in 2009, compared with 1999 (24%). Unlike hours worked, however, there is no clear relationship between number of jobs held and overall labour market conditions.

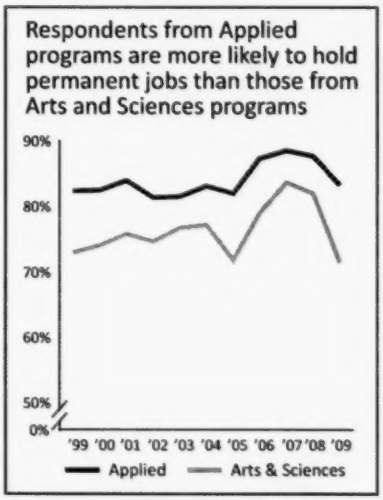


Job Type

Overall, self-employment is declining among respondents from Applied programs, from 7% of those employed in 1999 to 5% in 2009. The incidence of self-employment among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs has been somewhat volatile over the past decade, although there was no significant change between 1999 (7%) and 2009 (6%).

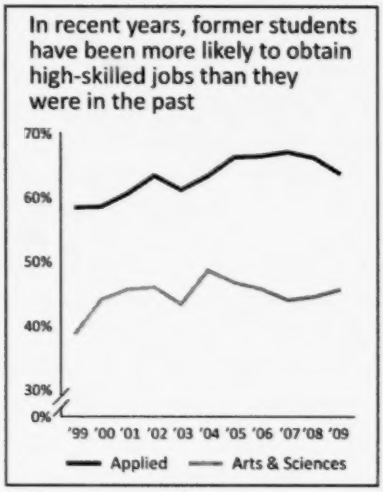
In the DACSO survey, employed respondents (excluding self-employed) are asked to indicate whether their job is permanent or temporary (e.g., short-term contract, less than six months). Over the past decade, the proportion of employed respondents working in permanent jobs has been consistently higher among former students from Applied programs than among those from Arts and Sciences programs. Rates of job permanence for each program type exhibit similar patterns over time, with rates peaking during the economic boom years of 2007 and 2008.





Job Skill Level

Since 1999, there has been a general positive trend towards an increasing proportion of employed respondents who are working in high-skilled occupations.* Over the past decade, the proportion of respondents from Applied programs working in high-skilled jobs has increased from 58% (1999) to 64% (2009); among respondents from Arts and Sciences programs, the proportion has increased from 39% to 46%.


In recent years, former students have been more likely to obtain high-skilled jobs than they were in the past
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
0%
'99 '00 '01 '02 '03 '04 '05 '06 '07 '08 '09
Applied
Arts & Sciences

End Notes

*Occupations are classified into skill levels according to the National Occupational Classification (NOC). For the purposes of this paper, high-skilled occupations include management occupations and occupations that usually require post-secondary training (skill levels A and B).

For more information on student outcomes and the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey, please see http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Default/Home.aspx.

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Ministry of Regional Economic and Skills Development
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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Oct 1/2010	% change on one year ago
BC	4,551.9	1.5
Canada	34,238.0	1.2
GDP and INCOME (Released Nov 4)		
(BC - at market prices)	2009	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	191,006	-3.4
GDP *($ 2002 millions)*	161,851	-1.8
GDP *($ 2002 per Capita) (reflects revised pop)*	36,287	-3.5
Personal Disposable Income *($ 2002 per Capita)*	25,374	-1.9
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Dec 2010	3,068	0.3
Merchandise Exports - Dec 2010	2,611	7.3
Retail Sales - Dec 2010	4,808	-2.2
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jan 2011)	one year ago	% change
BC	2.3	1.5
Vancouver	2.4	1.9
Victoria	2.2	1.2
Canada	2.3	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jan 2011	prev. month
Jobs Created (-Lost) - BC	-9.1	
Labour Force - BC	2,452.0	0.3
Employed - BC	2,251.6	-0.4
Unemployed - BC	200.4	8.4
		Dec 2010
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.2	7.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.8	7.6
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Feb 23/2011	Feb 24/2010
Prime Business Rate	3.00	2.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	3.50	3.60
- 5 year	5.44	5.39
US-CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Feb 23/2011	Feb 24/2010
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $ per US $	0.9924	1.0550
(closing rate) US $ per Cdn $	1.0115	0.9488
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan 2011	one year ago
BC	828.54	2.2
Canada	835.31	2.6

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

BC Post-Secondary Student Outcomes - Trends in Employment

Every year, respondents to the Diploma, Associate Degree, and Certificate Student Outcomes (DACSO) Survey are asked a series of questions about their current employment. This paper looks at trends in employment characteristics between 1999 and 2009. The analysis uses data from approximately 6,100 to 8,200 employed former students from Applied programs per year and 750 to 1,600 employed former Arts and Sciences students per year. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/DACSO_Papers/Trends_in_Employment_pdf.pdf

BC Post-Secondary Student Outcomes – Without a Trace

The report, Without a Trace - An Examination of Former Post-Secondary Students Who Left the System Without a Credential and Did Not Return, is based on 5,036 completions of the Short Stay Early Leaver Student Outcomes Survey, conducted over the summer of 2009. Respondents from 24 B.C. public post-secondary institutions - research universities, teaching universities, colleges, and institutes - participated in the project. For more information on BC Student Outcomes, visit BC Student Outcomes

http://outcomes.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/Libraries/SSELSO/SSEL_report_Final_pdf.pdf

Sub-Provincial Population Estimates

2010 estimates of population for municipalities, regional districts and development regions are now available. Estimates for 2006 to 2009 have also been revised.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/pop/mun/CurrentPopulationEstimates.pdf

Released this week by BC Stats

- No subscription releases

Next week

- Business Indicators, February 2011
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 4th Quarter 2010

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